

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
DIVISIONAL OF 09/437,246
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q67951

45. (Amended) An ink supply system for a printing apparatus providing ink to a printing head through a tapered ink supply needle, said ink supply system capable of providing ink contained in an ink chamber to the print head through the ink supply needle, comprising:

an ink channel for providing ink from said ink chamber to the print head of the printing apparatus;

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a first member provided at said ink channel, forming a part of said ink channel for allowing a flow of ink, said first member sealing the ink supply needle of the ink printing apparatus by fitting therewith; and

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a second member contained in said ink channel elastically abutting against said first member in a direction which is the same as a direction of the sealing by said first member with said second member, said second member selectively opening and closing said ink channel in conjunction with the ink supply needle.

Please add the following new claims:

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50. (New) An ink supply system according to claim 45, wherein said first member comprising a protruding rim formed on a surface thereof facing the ink chamber, said protruding rim formed on a surface thereof facing the ink chamber, said protruding rim contacting the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus.

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51. (New) An ink supply system according to claim 50, wherein said first member comprises a hole through which ink flows, said hole being surrounded by said protruding rim, a diameter of said hole is smaller than that of the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus.

52. (New) An ink supply system according to claim 50, wherein said second member comprises a surface facing said first member formed with a convex surface.

53. (New) An ink cartridge for a printing apparatus providing ink to a print head through a tapered ink supply needle, said ink cartridge capable of providing ink to the print head through the ink supply needle, the ink cartridge comprising:

an ink chamber containing ink therein;

an ink channel for providing ink from said ink chamber to the print head of the printing apparatus;

a first member provided at said ink channel, forming a part of said ink channel for allowing a flow of ink, said first member sealing the ink supply needle of the ink printing apparatus by fitting therewith; and

a second member contained in said ink channel elastically abutting against said first member in a direction which is the same as a direction of the sealing by said first member with said second member, said second member selectively opening and closing said ink channel in conjunction with the ink supply needle.

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54. (New) An ink cartridge according to claim 53, wherein said first member comprising a protruding rim formed on a surface thereof facing said ink chamber, said protruding rim contacting the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus.

55. (New) An cartridge according to claim 54, wherein said first member comprises a hole through which ink flows, said hole being surrounded by said protruding rim, a diameter of said hole is smaller than that of the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus.

56. (New) An ink cartridge according to claim 53, wherein said second member comprises a surface facing said first member formed with a convex surface.

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